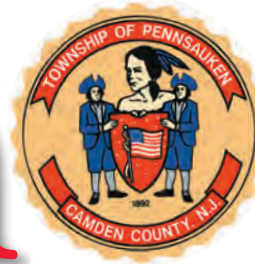


# All Around Pennsauken



Happy St. Patrick's Day  
& Welcome Spring!

VOL. 27, NO. 3

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

March 2022

## Pennsauken Events Work To Stop Spread Of COVID-19



Pennsauken Township partnered with the New Jersey Department of Health for a COVID-19 vaccination and booster shot event at the Pennsauken Municipal Court.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Working with community partners, Pennsauken Township held two events last month to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Dozens of residents looking to get tested for COVID-19 visited the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex on Feb. 12 for a free event. Cars pulled up to a special trailer and nurses from CAMcare Health instructed individuals on how to swab themselves so a sample could be obtained for testing. Participants received their results early that next week.

"Thank you to everyone who showed up for the PCR testing," said Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh. "I want to thank CAMcare and Phoenix Toxicology and Laboratory Services for partnering with us. Thanks also to all of our municipal staff who helped make this event possible. We're looking to host more testing events

*continued on page 21*

## Pennsauken Hosts County's First In-Person Town Hall In Two Years

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

The Pennsauken Country Club was the site of Camden County's first in-person town hall meeting in two years. Held on Feb. 23, the event was an opportunity for members of the community to hear from a variety of government representatives.

"We started this years ago to try to get all levels of government together, so that when the community comes out, we can respond to your questions and provide as much information and service to you as possible," explained Commissioner Director Louis Cappelli, Jr.

"I welcome you to one of the gems of our Township, the Pennsauken Country Club. I am thrilled that Pennsauken was selected for the return of Camden County's in-person town hall meetings," said Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh. "This is a special opportunity for our com-



Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh addressed attendees of Camden County's town hall meeting at the Pennsauken Country Club.

munity to have their voices heard."

Prior to the start of the town hall meeting, U.S. Army Veteran Robert Ralph Mac Murray was honored for his service to our nation. Mac Murray was drafted into the U.S. Army in February 1966 and served active duty in the 3rd Armor Infantry Division in Freiburg, Germany. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1972 after completing two years in the reserves. He currently serves as Commander of F.W. Grigg Post 68 and Chaplain of Camden County American Legion.

Attendees then heard from each of the government representatives. In Mayor Rafeh's remarks, she highlighted projects designed to fuel the Township's growth, including the town's plan to build a new library and municipal complex, the use of a Green Acres grant to make improvements

*continued on page 22*

## Pennsauken Remembers Officer Delp, Sonny DiSabato

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

The Township is mourning the loss of two dedicated public servants in February: Pennsauken Police Officer Michael Delp and Senior Coordinator Anthony "Sonny" DiSabato. Both were extremely dedicated to Pennsauken residents and made a true positive impact in our community.

### Officer Michael Delp

Pennsauken Police Officer Michael Delp, Badge #180, passed away suddenly from natural causes on Feb. 15. He was 48.

"Mike was a fantastic man who dedicated his life to public safety," said Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh. "We continue to keep Mike's family, colleagues,

and friends in our thoughts and prayers."

"Officer Delp had been a valued member of our police department for over 20 years. He was truly committed to our township and helping people," continued Pennsauken Police Chief Philip Olivo. "More importantly, he was a devoted husband and loving father. Mike was a friend to all at the Pennsauken Police Department and to everyone that knew him."

Officer Michael Delp served in the Patrol Division and was a mentor to younger officers. In addition, he was a 21-year member of the Pennsauken Fire Department at Station 11-4, Delaware Gardens, where he attained the rank of Deputy

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Pennsauken Police Officer Michael Delp passed away suddenly on Feb. 15. He was 48.

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## Neca's Gnomes Tap Into Popular Home Décor Trend

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Longtime Pennsauken resident Meritza Zayas enjoys crafting handmade gnomes as a hobby. But after seeing the level of interest from family and friends for her cute creations, it's become more than that.

"I first started doing them for myself, but then a lot of people have been requesting them," said Meritza, whose nickname, Neca, which has been shortened from the Spanish phrase for "baby doll." "They've been a hit."

Each gnome is roughly 6-inches tall and made from a variety of items, including socks, mop heads, cotton filler, and wooden odds and ends from Dollar Tree. Prices range from \$15 to \$30 and can be customized for holidays, professions, special occasions, and more.

Gnomes have really taken off as home



**Pennsauken resident Meritza Zayas is creating some cute characters through Neca's Gnomes.**

décor, as these adorable little characters can be used in a variety of different spaces, from bathrooms to office desks. And as gnomes are symbols of good luck, Zayas is hoping to capture a little for herself in the form of more sales.

"I love doing them. It's exciting."

For more information, visit @shop\_necasgnomes on Facebook.



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## MAYOR'S CORNER Moving Forward On Exciting Pennsauken Projects



By Jessica Rafah,  
Mayor of  
Pennsauken  
Township

Since the start of the new year, our administration has been hard at work, developing a variety of exciting projects that will enhance our Pennsauken community. I wanted to share some updates with you.

Plans continue to move forward on our state-of-the-art library and municipal complex, made possible in part through a \$9 million grant we received from the state, the second largest amount awarded that year. Last month, Committee passed resolutions to enter into professional services agreements for both architectural and engineering serv-

ices related to this project. We look forward to sharing the plans with our residents and breaking ground.

Pennsauken has received a Green Acres grant to make improvements to Tippin's Pond, which will include fountains, new decking around the pond, and an enhanced trail that will connect that area to Delaware Gardens Park on 49th St., which we recently upgraded as well. The Township is working with the state agency in charge of this grant to move this project forward. We can't wait to share more updates on how we're enhancing this special destination in Pennsauken.

And now for some big news: we are just weeks away from the start of renovations to the Pennsauken Skate Park. We'll be breaking ground some time in April. To say that our resident skate-

boarder, Township Committeeman Marco DiBattista, is excited about the beginning of the transformation of this park is an understatement! We'll have more information to share very soon.

For the past few years, Township Committee has made a commitment to enhancing public safety. We have recently purchased new squad cars, fire engines, and ambulances to support our first responders. And funds have been allocated to enhance our town's camera surveillance system. We will continue to give our officers, our firefighters, and our emergency medical technicians the tools they need to serve our residents and keep them safe.

It is so important to continue to find new and innovative ways to foster growth in our town. Whether it's enhancing our parks and public spaces, up-

grading essential facilities like our library and municipal building, developing new community events for our residents to enjoy, providing our first responders with the support and equipment they need, or helping large companies like Puratos and Scrub Daddy to make significant investments in our town, your municipal government and our staff are working tirelessly to make it happen.

I also want to remind our residents that March is Women's History Month, a celebration of the vital role of women in the history of America. This year is the first time Pennsauken has had an all-female led governing body. Deputy Mayor Nikki Roberts and I understand the importance of this moment in our town's history. As I've mentioned before, we are determined to grow our community, not just as leaders, but as role models to

those who will come after us. Our children and our grandchildren are looking to us. We need to show them that when they set their minds to it and work hard, they can be a part of the American dream.

Have a great month, enjoy the start of spring, and be safe.

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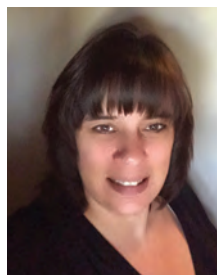
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## WAGSWORLD Meet Max, The Wagner Wonder Puppy

By Bob Wagner,  
AAP Columnist

For as long as I can remember, I loved the cold weather. A good snow was icing on the cake. If I wasn't out hunting, I was taking the kids out to play. Sledding was great, building snowmen was almost as good, and if you got wet and cold, warming up after was fun too.

Fast forward to 2022, three kinds of blood thinners, and no dog or kids to play with. I now officially hate the cold. I need double fleece, gloves, a scarf, and wool socks to go out and start the car. My truck hasn't moved in a month. The bride's car has heated seats, heated wheel, electric warmed windshield wipers, and a talking girl who won't let me get lost. I know all this because of the



Max is the grandpuppy of Bob and Suzie and frequent visitor to Casa Wagner.

dog park.

The bride and I haven't had a dog since Babe died. No more tears for a family member who goes too soon. We passed on a pup while we thought we could just up and travel anywhere, anytime without arranging for a home for old Labradors. Now COVID, combined with old age and crappy health, have put an end to quick travel plans.

So, we put our heads together with the grandkids and helped campaign for the son to get a pup. The arrangement, I figured, would be daytime at Casa Wagner,

where the bride and I would enjoy puppy sitting, get lots of exercise walking the dog, then send said pup home with the son at day's end. Sounded great on paper.

The new family addition, Max the wonder puppy, has been here for a few months. He was a cute little Lab pup who fit on a lap really well, at first. Then he doubled in size, grew some muscle, and stole everyone's heart. Along with his energy, his kidneys and bladder grow daily. Max has large Labrador feet to grow into. This is where the dog park comes into play.

Casa Wagner is almost exclusively concrete. Young Max has at his evening home a lovely, fenced yard full of grass. He can go out, come in, all with the slide of a door. Not so much here in the numbered streets. A few weeks back, at the start of the real cold, the bride and I found the dog park over in Meadowbrook. It turns out I had been there in a previous life when it was home to girls softball. Years of coaching had me there for years. Now, fully fenced in, two sections, one for small dogs, one for large dogs, the park lets pups run free without escaping on to roadways.

After a few weeks, we have become daily regulars. We have discovered new friends who come here daily, and in a strange way, know all the dogs' names. Now we have to learn the owners' names.

I carry pockets full of dog biscuits, plastic bags for poop, and a few towels for wet feet and mud. Max is growing faster than his manners, and the bride is threatening to spoil him rotten. His energy is more fun to watch than to walk with, but his runs at the park make it a lot easier. In a while, Max is going away to Labrador college to meet ducks and pheasants. I have great hopes that I will be around long enough to hit the field with the outdoor guys once again behind a fine retriever. I just wish it could be in a warmer climate. Only time will tell... more later.

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Virtual meetings are held via Zoom. Log in information available at <https://www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us>.

Township Committee (In Person)  
 6:00 p.m. Thurs., March 3 and 17

Zoning Board of Adjustment (Virtual)  
 7:00 p.m. Wed., March 2, 9, and 16

Planning Board (Virtual)  
 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 1 and 22

Environmental Commission (Virtual) March 21, 7:00 p.m.

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## Deputy Mayor Roberts Honored By Homestead Youth Association

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On Feb. 20, Pennsauken Deputy Mayor Nicole Roberts was honored by the organization that served as a positive influence in her life and has impacted local youth for decades. The goal of the Homestead Youth Association is to provide young people with educational and cultural experiences through recreational activities; and Roberts, along with so many others from the neighborhood in which she grew up, benefitted greatly from the work of these community volunteers.

"Who would have known that some 50 years later, one of those children who were the first beneficiaries of Homestead services would become the deputy mayor of Pennsauken Township?" said Debbie Samuels, chairperson of the Homestead Youth Association Board of Directors, who presented Deputy Mayor Roberts with a special picture, entitled "Great African Americans." "We, the board of directors of the Homestead Youth Association, are proud of you and your commitment to service in our community."

In 1972, resident Robert Cream met with a group of young people to develop activities and programs for the youth of the Homestead area of Pennsauken. Nicole Robert's parents, Benjamin and Helena King, were a part of that group. Later on, Mrs. Gladys Pritchett became the first chairperson of the board of directors of the Homestead Youth Association, serving the community along with the iconic Rick Taylor. Mrs. Catherine Crocker and Mrs. Barbara Davis headed the education programs of the HYA in 1991, when the organization moved into its current location on Willow Ave. The work of these many dedicated volunteers made quite an impact on the deputy mayor.

"People with a powerful sense of community and public service created the Homestead Youth Association. I, and all of my friends and cousins, benefited from HYA," explained Roberts. "Through the Homestead, we all went roller skating, swimming, camping, did frequent trips to Bass River and vacationed together in

Virginia, like a big family. We were so blessed to be able to experience all of those activities together. It made us all close and was absolutely a shining example of community and public service.

"We had an amazing childhood, and HYA had a lot to do with that. I am beyond grateful for all the selfless hard work it took to create and run this in-

credible organization. Thank you to every original member who devoted so much to the youth of our community and thank you to every participating member throughout the years who have kept the Homestead running."

Roberts' sense of public service was fostered through the Homestead Youth Association; and she stressed that the

Pennsauken Township Committee is dedicated to serving the residents of Homestead, as well as the entire community.

"I am fortunate to serve with such an amazing team. Mayor Rafeh, Township Committee and I are here to serve all of Pennsauken. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or any of us, with any questions or concerns."



Pennsauken Deputy Mayor Nicole Roberts was honored by the Homestead Youth Association in February.

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By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,  
Department of Public Works

In early February, the groundhog did see his shadow and the winter weather continued immediately. With temperatures dipping below 20 degrees, it is difficult to think that we will ever get out of this season! Still, the Department of Public Works is already making progress in our parks, stormwater basins, and various municipal properties. Mid-February saw temperatures in the 50s, which really helps us get a jump on our work.

In January, Public Works hired two new employees to collect bulk items and metal goods in the expansion of our sanitation division. This cost-saving move

## Public Works Prepares For Spring As Winter Lingers On

reduced the garbage collection contract, as well as placed two energetic Pennsauken residents into public service. Mr. Stephen Brittin and Mr. Herman Young, Jr. began training in early January. At the time of this writing, they have learned the routes, as well as begun to interact with our residents through their work. I find this invaluable as the education of trash guidelines is limited to this article, the Township website, and social media posts. Having a personal connection with an employee of Pennsauken is a way for the world to get back to "the old days" of that small-town feel. If you see these guys in the big, white trash truck collecting bulk

items, give them a wave!

As we look forward to the sunny days and warmer weather of spring, Old Man Winter leaves us a few reminders of his stay here in Pennsauken. Potholes are a common occurrence in our part of the country, mainly because of the extreme cold of winter and the unbearable heat of the summer, causing weaknesses in our

asphalt roads. When water infiltrates the asphalt and gets into the base layer below, the water will freeze and thaw, causing the road to heave up or sink down. When a vehicle weighing a couple thousand pounds drives over this area, the asphalt gives out. Pennsauken's Department of Public Works has a road patch crew that addresses potholes on Township roads.

You may notice our crew temporarily filling a pothole with crushed concrete. This is usually done to remedy the immediate safety concern of the pothole during cold weather that may compromise our permanent patch or when temperatures are too low that our asphalt supplier is closed. Since we experience some warmer days every couple of weeks with temperatures in the upper 40s, a long-term repair can be made with asphalt. Feel free to contact us if you find a pothole anywhere in Pennsauken.

Camden County is holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, March 26, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Cherry Hill Public Works Complex, 1 Perina Boulevard, Cherry Hill, NJ. All residents must remain in their vehicles throughout the event. All material to be dropped off should be placed in the trunk, rear cargo area, or pick-up bed; materials should not be placed in the passenger seating area. No appointments are necessary, and the event is rain or shine. These events are for residents only (no businesses), and proof of County residence will be required.

Stay warm and safe while we get through the last weeks of winter. Questions or concerns? Contact Public Works at (856) 663-0178 or PublicWorks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

### TALKIN' TRASH

Trash and recycling collection, as well as yard waste and white goods pick up, remain on a regular schedule for the month of March, weather permitting.

Camden County is holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, March 26, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Cherry Hill Public Works Complex, 1 Perina Boulevard, Cherry Hill, NJ. For more details, see the Public Works article on this page.

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## Macaro's Deli And Catering Closes After Decades Of Service

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Macaro's Deli and Catering, a Pennsauken mainstay for decades, closed its doors after serving customers one last time on Super Bowl Sunday. Owners Jon and Sharon Rush have enjoyed serving the community but acknowledged that it was time to enjoy retirement.

"It's overwhelming to me that people are so upset that we've closed, but they understand that we were given a great opportunity. We got a great offer. We couldn't say no," explained Sharon Rush. "For 31 years, we haven't been able to go to family events."

In the days before Macaro's closing, Jon and Sharon were overwhelmed with the outpouring from their loyal customers.

"It's heartwarming that people called, stopped by, and came in for their last hoagie. Some were crying," said Rush. "A lady from North Jersey came in to say goodbye. It was really sweet."

Jon and Sharon haven't firmed up plans for their next steps, but it will include a move closer to their loved ones.

"Most of the family is out west. Our daughter's in Texas; she owns her own



**Jon and Sharon Rush, owners of Macaro's Deli and Catering, have decided to retire and recently sold their property.**

restaurant out there. My twin sister is in California, Jon's one brother is in Ohio and the rest are in Washington State. We're going to pick a destination where we're closer."

Recent social media posts from the new owners of the property indicate that they will be headed in a decidedly different direction than a delicatessen and a catering space.

"It's bittersweet that there's not going

to be a Macaro's anymore, but times change," said Sharon. "I'm just so used to going there every day to work. It was a very good run, and we made a very good living here, but it was very hard work and we're ready to sleep past 4 o'clock in the morning."

And the fish that was behind the counter? Don't worry. It's now in the safe hands of a longtime customer.

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## EDITOR'S DESK Remembering Bill And The Amazing Lessons He Shared

EDITOR'S  
DESK



By Frank Sinatra,  
AAP Editor

He went by many names. The Animal. Hochi. My Son. The Mighty Tartan Cisco.

But for the many who loved him, he was Bill. And what a gift he was.

Bill Carroll was a proud Teamster and shop steward; talented guitarist and singer; and most importantly, dedicated family man and loyal friend. It was in this last cat-

egory where he made all the difference in the world. Aside from my parents, Bill was the first grownup – and I respectfully use that term in the lightest sense – to treat me as an adult. So many kids from “the neighborhood” learned at the feet of the master. Whether he you knew him as a coach with PYAA, learned a “butt buster” off the diving board at Meadowbrook Swim Club, or heard him play guitar and sing with the folk group at the Saturday night Mass at Saint Peter’s, he reminded you that you should never take things too seriously and embrace the joy that the world gives you. That was never more apparent four and a half years ago with his cancer diagnosis.

Among many other things, Bill shared his appreciation of the Grateful Dead, Jimmy Buffet, and David Lynch’s “Dune.” And during his illness, he showed the world what “Long live the fighters” looked like. Many patients with the same diagnosis are given months, so he grabbed as many as he could and ran



Bill Carroll

for years. And he did it with an unparalleled grace and strength until the end.

Bill lived within walking distance of my home, so I’d often wave or stop my car for a quick chat when I saw him enjoying a morning cup of coffee on his porch. This summer, I was fortunate enough to spend more time with him, as my son and I helped him with his lawn after his health no longer allowed him to do so. It’s something that we’ll truly treasure. Bill always remained upbeat and positive. He was looking forward to the spring, so that he could get more physical therapy in and get back to walking around the neighborhood that he loved. Instead, he learned how to fly.

I had a chance to say goodbye and spoke about saving that one more drink together for another day. And while I’m sad it’ll have to wait, I know that when it’s time, he’ll have the Bombay Sapphire ready.

To steal a line from Uncle Jerry, “There is a road, no simple highway, between the dawn and the dark of night. And if you go, no one may follow. That path is for your steps alone.”

My condolences to his wife Eileen; his children Kim, Kristin, Nicole, and Kevin;

sons-in-law Bob, Brandon, and Brian; and granddaughters Elizabeth, Olivia, and Madison. Thank you for sharing Bill

with us.

God speed you home, O’ Mighty Tartan Cisco. Tell Garcia I said, “Hi.”



### PennsaukenTown Watch Meets On March 9

Pennsauken’s Town Watch hosts its meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the second floor of the Pennsauken Township Police Department, 2400 Bethel Ave. This month’s meeting is held on March 9.

Come learn how to keep your community safe! For more information, visit the “Pennsauken Town Watch” Facebook Group.

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## Moving Towards Normalcy, Celebrating Our Track Team

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd<sup>2</sup>, M.S., M.B.S., M.A.<sup>2</sup>, Ed.D., Ph.D., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools; and the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; JoAnn Young, Vice President; Lisa Eckel; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Diane Johnson; Samer John Jarboub-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; and Orlando Viera

First, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents, students, teachers, administrators, bus drivers, secretaries, food service workers, teacher assistants, non-teaching assistants, custodians, maintenance workers, and every other staff member that has helped us with this pandemic up to date. The Board of Education has recently voted to allow masks to be optional for all students, parents, and staff beginning Monday, March 7, in an effort to bring Pennsauken Public Schools back to normalcy. During the pandemic, Pennsauken Public Schools offered more in-person instruction opportunities than any other school in the county and most school districts in the State of New Jersey. The Board of Education and Pennsauken Public Schools have thrived during the past two years, thanks to our employees, parents, students, and Pennsauken community. We appreciate you!

We have amazing news about some of our great students that we would like to honor during this article. Boys Indoor Track has had a memorable season so

far, winning the Group 3 State Relay Championship in January, for the second time in school history (2018). At the event, the boys won three titles: the 4x200 and Sprint Medley Relay (Bryce Tucker, Kahlil Ali, Elijah Jennings, Premier Wynn), and also the 4x400 (Tucker, Ali, Wynn and Joel Oquendo). The boys also earned an important fifth place in the Distance Medley (Tucker, Oquendo, Nadir Paige, Ladanian McGrath) to help secure the Championship.

The boys then went on to win the South Jersey Group 3 Sectional Title for the first time in school history. The Indians were led by Tucker (three first place finishes), Oquendo (second and third place), Wynn (second and sixth place), Jennings (second place), Ali (sixth place), McGrath (fifth place), and capping it off with a first-place win in the 4x400 (Tucker, Wynn, Ali, Oquendo).

At the Group 3 State individual meet, the Indians came up a little short for the team title, but it wasn't because of lack of effort! The boys finished second overall with 49 team points! Bryce Tucker further cemented why he is one of the top runners in the state. Bryce won three state titles and teamed up with Ali, Wynn and Oquendo to win the 4x400 relay. Bryce was the first South Jersey runner in 14 years to pull the quad off! Oquendo also placed fifth and sixth, with Wynn

placing third as well. And everyone who competed this season comes back next year! The Indians will now compete at the Meet of Champions and then the Nike Indoor Nationals!

I would like to thank Our Head Track Coach, Clinton Tabb, as well as Coach Zimmermann, Coach Warren, and Coach Thompson. Additionally, I would like to thank our Head Strength Coach, Christopher Gates, and our Athletic Director, Coach Snyder. The students have said to Coach Tabb that they are able to train in the best facility in the state both inside and outside. The Board of Education is proud to offer such magnificent facilities to our wonderful students and families.

The Board of Education will be honoring our coaches, champion students and their families at our next Board Meeting. The coaches, students, and their families will have dinner with the Board of Education and be presented with



Pennsauken High School's boys track team won the state championship at the Group 3 State Relay Track Meet.

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## Students Shine At Fine's Winter Concert



Fine's third graders performed several songs during the school's winter concert.

In late January, Fine School enjoyed a musical treat that they have not experienced in almost two years: a winter concert!

Third graders performed for the second grade, while Pennsauken's AV aficionado, Dennis Crocker, recorded the concert for all to see later. Mr. Matthew Ford's small

but growing instrumental ensemble performed two pieces as a prelude to Mrs. MaryJo Test's beautiful performances.

The students were proud of their preparation and performance. They all dressed to impress, and we will look forward to more this spring!

Bravo!

## Cheering On The Team



Phifer cheerleaders delivered a fantastic performance as they cheered our boys basketball team to victory against DeMasi Middle School!

## Carson Music Students Excel At Winter Concert



Mr. Ford did an excellent job with our young musicians during Carson's winter concert.

All of the third grade students at Carson School participated in the video winter concert in January. The band and string students played very well, as this was the first time returning to elementary instrumental music in years!

Our chorus students also performed

well and sang "jazzy" songs that were a big hit! Their beginning songs spoke to the joy they felt to be singing.

Kudos to Mr. Ford, Mrs. Test, and all of the talented musicians for a wonderful concert!

## Carson Students Enjoy the Outside



With the sun shining strongly on Feb. 1, Mr. McBride got his gym classes and recess students outside to enjoy lovely 40-degree day with a beautiful snow-covered backdrop! The students participated in exercises and worked out on the black top.

## Fine Students Of The Month Were "Cooperative"



Congratulations to Fine's students of the month for January!

Each month, Fine Elementary focuses on a character trait to highlight in the halls and classrooms. In January, students paid extra attention to "cooperating well with others."

One student from each class was designated as "student of the month" for working well with their peers or cooperating with adult direction. As many of us know, this is a trait that students will find useful for years and decades to come!

Way to go Fine students!

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## Carson Kindergartners Interview For Class Jobs

Ms. Ashworth's kindergarten class used their writing and communication skills to apply for classroom jobs.

Each student completed an application form that included their name, the job that they were applying for, and the reason they wanted this job. In addition, students drew a picture to illustrate their skills for the job.

Carson's principal, Mrs. Joyce, interviewed the top candidates for the various classroom jobs. Students provided Mrs. Joyce with information about their qualifications and job experience.

Aa'Lurie expressed that she has experience for the nurse helper. "I have walked students to the nurse before, I know exactly what to do."

Ethyn, who was applying for paper passer stated, "I have passed papers out in class before. My friends say, 'Thank you' and I say, 'You are welcome.'"

Ms. Ashworth's class has proven that there are many great candidates for her classroom jobs!



Students in Ms. Ashworth's kindergarten class interviewed for class jobs.

## Baldwin Celebrates School Counselor



Mrs. Mestiri's and Mrs. Dils' classes celebrated their incredible school counselor, Ms. Dilsanique Jefferson, and showered her with hearts to show how much she is loved and appreciated.

## Phifer Staff Have Fun During PLD Day



Phifer staff enjoys another personal learning and development day, as teachers worked together to solve various puzzles.

## Phifer Students Learn About Baking At Puratos



Phifer students enjoyed a trip to Puratos Corporation's U.S. headquarters and learned about the baking process. Puratos is opening its first U.S. baking school at Pennsauken High School.

## Mangia! PHS Culinary Class Cooks Italian



Students in Mr. Villari's culinary class enjoyed making chicken parmesan and pasta. Delizioso!

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## Learning Spanish Names For Colors



Students at Carson School began learning the Spanish names for all the colors. Ms. Fajardo's kindergarten-first grade class was excited on forming their favorite, colored crayons into makeshift hats!

## Carson Students Show Off Their Many Talents

When we are all in need of a smile, the talented kids at Carson came through. Presented with the opportunity to offer talent and theater extracurricular activities this year, Carson put together its first annual talent show!

Students showcased their talents from singing, to magic, to LEGO building, and more! In addition, a few teachers got in on the fun too. To create a talent show and still remain socially distanced, everyone was recorded, and the clips were put together in a video. To cap off the video, groups of students and teachers caught the dancing bug and showed off their moves!



Carson students showcased their talents during our school's first annual talent show!

You can check out Carson's Talent Show Video on the Carson School Website!

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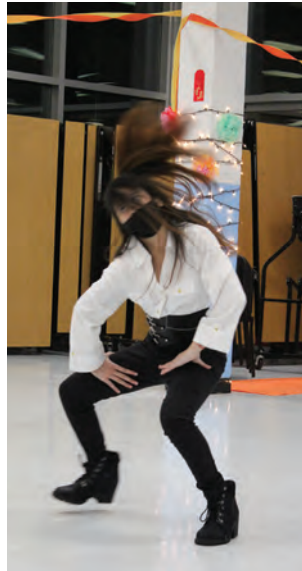
### PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:  
Nicole Roberts, Editor nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

## Celebrating The Year Of The Tiger



Sponsored by Pennsauken High School's Asian Student Association, this year's celebration of the Lunar New Year included great food, wonderful performances, fun activities, and more!



## Student Performers Wow At Franklin Showcase



Students performed hip hop dance routines during the Franklin Showcase.

In January, students from the second and third grades performed and recorded the Franklin Showcase.

The Showcase started with a short play about the meaning of friendship called "True Colors." Students showed off their Hip Hop dance movements to Taylor Swift's, "Shake It Off," and "Up-town Funk" by Bruno Mars. Three students wowed everyone with their ballet

dance, "Sugar Plum Fairy," from "The Nutcracker." Students were also featured playing xylophones, drums, and boomwhackers. Tambourines and rhythm sticks were played to the poem, "Colors," and to the song, "Juba Jive."

The Showcase ended with students singing their hearts out to the Bruno Mars hit, "Count on Me" and the Disney favorite, "Bare Necessities."

## Students Let Off Some STEAM After School



Pennsauken Board of Education member Diane Johnson has a snack with students during Phifer's STEAM Tank afterschool program, which encourages students to apply science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) in response to issues facing the world today.

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PER DIEM DRIVER POSITIONS AVAILABLE NOW \$125.00/DAY!**

**Must be fully licensed**

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Valid NJ Drivers License
- Must be 21 years of age
- Must pass DOT Physical & Drug Test
- Must pass CDL Permit Written Test P/S Endorsement
- Background Check

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS**

**WITH CURRENT CDL CLASS B & REQUIRED P/S Endorsements:**

- Must Pass Drug Test
- Background Check



**For More Information call 856-662-8502**

## AARP Tax-Aide Services Available At Pennsauken Library

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide free services will again be available to low- and middle-income Pennsauken and Merchantville area residents from now through April 18. This year, there will be no on-site traditional tax preparation, where the taxpayer sits with an AARP Tax-Aide during the tax preparation process. Instead, taxpayers will have the choice of two service models.

### Same Day Drop Off

Taxpayers interact with an IRS-certified Tax-Aide in a 20-30 minute in-person and socially distanced meeting. During the appointment, the Tax-Aide will complete the intake process and write a receipt for all tax documents collected. These meetings, available by appointment only, will take place in the Pennsauken Free Public Library's Community Room on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Before the taxpayer leaves, they will make a follow-up appointment to return the same day to review the printed tax return, sign an authorization for AARP Foundation to file the return electroni-

cally, and acknowledge their receipt of the original tax documents.

Taxpayers can only make appointments by accessing the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Site Locator at: [www.aarpfoundation.org/Tax-Aide](http://www.aarpfoundation.org/Tax-Aide) or accessing the appointment form directly at <http://bit.ly/2uUt19D> Tax-Aide. Taxpayers will receive an automatic confirmation email. A follow-up email from [aarp.cc.pt@gmail.com](mailto:aarp.cc.pt@gmail.com) will include the links to documents to be printed, completed, and brought to the drop-off site. If you do not have a printer, packets containing all required documents will be available for pick-up at the Library. All tax documents must have been received and all forms filled out prior to arrival for an appointment.

A public computer has been designated in the reference area for individuals to sign up for a tax preparation appointment. If you do not have an email address, no problem! Confirmation forms and intake packets will be available at the at the Library's circulation desk.

If there are no appointments avail-

able, taxpayers can add themselves to the appointment waitlist. An AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will contact waitlisted taxpayers by phone as appointments become available.

### Self Preparation

Under this model, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides taxpayers who have an adjusted gross income of \$73,000 or below with free access to software so they can prepare their own taxes. Taxpayers can also request help from an IRS-certified counselor to coach them through the process by phone or through computer screen-sharing. Participants can only request virtual tax prep assistance through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's website: [www.aarpfoundation.org/Tax-Aide](http://www.aarpfoundation.org/Tax-Aide). Participants must provide a private email address to use this model.

Please do not contact the Pennsauken Library about any of the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service offerings. They are wonderful, supportive hosts, but they are not AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers. The links referenced above have also been shared with the library.

## DDP SPECIALTY ELECTRONIC MATERIALS US, LLC.

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO RENEW Title V Operating Permit No. BOP190001

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to NJSA 13:1D-157 and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Administrative Order 2021-25 (AO 2021-25), that DDP Specialty Electronic Materials US, LLC, located at 1500 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken NJ, intends to renew its Title V operating permit.

DDP Specialty Electronic Materials US, LLC primarily manufactures foam insulation products. As a result of the potential levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC) emitted, DDP Specialty Electronic Materials US, LLC is a major stationary source as defined in Title I, Part D of the Clean Air Act Amendments. The facility is therefore subject to the Title V permitting requirements adopted in NJAC 7:27 Subchapter 22.

The proposed Title V Operating Permit Renewal does not request any modifications to the facility's existing Title V permit. The current Title V Permit No. 180001 was issued on November 1, 2018. Upon final approval, the permit will be renewed for an additional five (5) years from the current expiration date.

Pursuant to AO 2021-25, a public information session will be held on April 5th, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The information session will be held via Microsoft TEAMS and can be accessed via this webpage:

<https://bit.ly/DuPontReviewPennsauken>

Concurrent with this notice, DDP Specialty Electronic Materials US, LLC will accept public comments on the proposed Title V renewal for a sixty-day period starting on March 5th, 2022 and concluding on May 5th, 2022. Comments can be submitted via electronic mail to [Brooke.S.Gallahan@dupont.com](mailto:Brooke.S.Gallahan@dupont.com) or via United States Postal Service to DDP Specialty Electronic Materials US, LLC, ATT: Title V Public Comment, 1500 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken NJ 08110.



# The Home Inspection School of New Jersey



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**WARNER**  
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Must be presented at time of sale.  
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## PUBLIC SAFETY



### Important Tools For Pennsauken Township Police Officers

By Pennsauken Township Police Chief Philip Olivo

The Township of Pennsauken has purchased Axon Body Worn Cameras for the Pennsauken Township Police Department. Put into service the week of October 25, 2022, these body worn cameras are key to providing a depiction of what an officer experiences while on the scene of a call, along with the documentation of evidence and witness or suspect statements. The body worn cameras also enhance transparency with the Pennsauken Police Department and the public.

Although these cameras are an excellent tool used by law enforcement, there are things that the officer will detect from the use of his or her senses that the camera will not pick up. This must not be for-

gotten when the video is reviewed.

As part of the body worn camera package, each officer on the street will be assigned a conducted energy device (CED), with all officers receiving virtual reality training. The CED is another tool an officer can utilize in their tool kit. The virtual reality training is a state-of-the-art training platform, that will immerse officers in scenarios where they will be tasked with making decisions and de-escalating situations. If the officer is going to make a mistake, it is better to make a mistake in training, instead of on the street.

Police officers often are portrayed as using excessive and/or unnecessary force. Our officers are highly trained in the use of force and in de-escalation techniques. The Pennsauken Police Department had approximately 63,000 calls for service in 2021; during that time, the Pennsauken

Police Department had 42 use of force incidents. Our officers used force 0.00066 percent of the time. On 99.99933 percent of the calls, our officers were able to resolve the incident without using force.

I am very proud of our officers and honored to serve the community of Pennsauken. The members of the Pennsauken Township Police Department are committed to continuing these high levels of service each and every year.

**For advertising rates  
and information  
call 856-662-5100  
or email  
allaroundsenn@aol.com**

### Captain O'Brien Retires After Thirty Years Of Service

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Last month, Captain Mike O'Brien of the Pennsauken Fire Department retired after serving his community for over 30 years.

O'Brien joined Pennsauken Fire Company, No. 2 on Merchantville Ave. in 1992 after moving to Pennsauken from Bridesburg in Philadelphia. He was inspired to become a firefighter after having to call the fire department to his house on Lario Way and interacting with the members who responded. Mike had no fire service experience prior to joining, and in 2004, he was appointed to the full-time staff, rising to the rank of Fire Captain. Mike has the distinction of being the very first career Fire Captain in the history of the Pennsauken Fire Department dating



O'Brien

back to 1913.

"In 2004, I had the honor of working with Mike at Pennsauken 2," explained Pennsauken Fire Chief Joe Palumbo during a retirement luncheon held in O'Brien's honor. "I can count 13 Christmases with Mike, Grace and the family. Mike is the proud godfather of our daughter, Sophia, and was a part of everything this department became when we reorganized in 2009. I can't be more proud than I am today to congratulate him on whatever this next chapter brings."

"I'm not big on speeches, I just wanted to thank everybody," said O'Brien. "I appreciate the honor."

"I hope when Mike's on an island, drinking a margarita, he thinks of us," added Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh. "Thank you for your service and all the years you have invested in Pennsauken. We appreciate you and wish you good luck."



## Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

1250 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Phone: (856) 663-5542 • Fax: (856) 663-5718 • 24 Hour Emergency: (856) 662-0686

### Think Twice About What You're Flushing

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and even "flushable" wipes, can't go down the toilet

Please do not flush baby wipes, "flushable" wipes, disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is asking residents to think twice about what they are flushing down their toilets.

Paper towels, tissues, napkins, disinfectant wipes, and supposedly "flushable" wipes should not be flushed down the toilet.

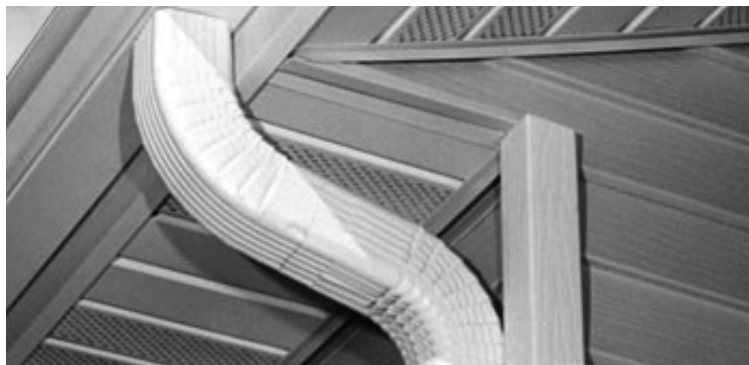
The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority remains available 24 hours a day to assist residents. We will

respond to all requests for assistance and will advise the homeowner of our findings by telephone. If you require assistance, call (856) 662-0686.



### Improper Connections Cause Property Damage

The connection of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. During periods of heavy rain, these connections often overwhelm the main lines. This could result in a sewage back up into your own home or the home of your neighbor. If you need additional information about these types of connections, or suspect you or a neighbor, may have an improper connection and want information about having it removed, please call our office at (856) 663-5542.



#### REMINDER: CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

THE LOBBY IS NOW OPEN • OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday to Thursday – 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DRIVE THRU IS NOW OPEN DURING OUR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

PLEASE USE MAIL SLOT LOCATED IN OUR PUBLIC ENTRANCE DOOR TO DROP PAYMENTS WHEN THE OFFICE IS CLOSED.

TO PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE – VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT  
WWW.PSEWER.COM AND CLICK ON THE BILLING BUTTON –  
WILL NEED YOUR ACCOUNT ID AND PIN.

LASTLY YOU CAN ALSO MAKE A PAYMENT USING YOUR  
OWN ONLINE BANKING.

If there is a sewer emergency, call the emergency telephone number (856-662-0686) and someone will respond to the call. If you need to contact us for information, you can email customerservice@psewer.com and we will respond in a timely fashion.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.



## Pennsauken Spring Clean Up Day Held On April 2

The Pennsauken Environmental Commission and the Township's Parks and Recreation Department will be holding a spring clean up day on Saturday, April 2. Held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 60 volunteers will be split between four locations: Tippin's Pond, 49th St. Park, the Boat Ramp at Derosse Ave., and Meadowbrook Park.

"Each year, volunteers from our community come out and get some of Pennsauken's great outdoor spaces ready for warm weather activities," explained Juan Vazquez, the Township's parks and recreation coordinator. "This is a great project for community groups and young people who need service hours. We hope you'll join us!"

Each person, family, or team will be provided with trash bags, a bucket, gloves (one size fits all), and trash pickers. It is suggested that volunteers wear boots,



Tippin's Pond is one of four locations that will be part of a springtime clean up on April 2.

along with old clothes (long-sleeved shirts and pants), as individuals can get muddy and dirty. These clean ups may be canceled/postponed due to weather 24 hours prior to the event.

It's suggested that volunteers wear face masks during the clean up and maintain social distancing when possible.

If a volunteer feels ill within 24 hours of the event, comes in contact with someone who had tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting for test results, and/or have personally tested positive for COVID-19 or are awaiting test results, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at the contact information below and stay home.

Registration for the spring clean up is required at least five days prior to the event. To register, please email the following information to [jvazquez@twp.pennsauken.nj.us](mailto:jvazquez@twp.pennsauken.nj.us):

- Your full name
- The number of people coming with you, if any
- Your preferred clean up location
- A good phone number and email address to contact you with updates, cancellations, etc.

## Woman's Club Holds Annual Spelling Bee



The Woman's Club of Merchantville held its annual spelling bee for fourth and fifth graders on Feb. 19. Twenty-nine impressive contestants went a total of 18 rounds!

Miles Romen, Zoey Middleton, and Cameron Lectora are this year's winners of the Woman's Club of Merchantville's annual spelling bee.

Miles Romen from Pennsauken Intermediate School took first place; Zoey Middleton from Merchantville Elementary was second; and Cameron Lectora from Burling Elementary was third.

Congratulations to all of the participants. They really did a great job!

**Did you to pop the question this Valentines Day?**  
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# MPWC WATERLINES

## A Message From The MPWC

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission remains steadfast in our commitment to provide our customers with clean, safe, and reliable water during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As you are likely aware, our service termination program has been suspended for nearly two years now. During this time, your water accounts are not collecting interest or penalties. While we have not determined an exact date, please keep in mind that terminations will begin to happen again in the future, so it is very important for you to make payments if you are able. And remember, that payment arrangements are

available.

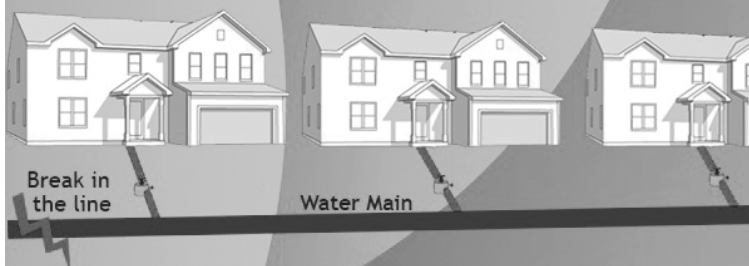
Our staff is standing by Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to assist you with repayment options by phone at (856) 663-0043. If you prefer to visit us in person, be reminded that our lobby closes at 3:00 p.m. each day.

You may also continue to mail your

payments to us, leave them in our drop box, or take advantage of our online or pay-by-phone systems.

If you'd like to pay online, please visit our website at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com) and select the yellow button that says, "access online bill pay." To make a payment by phone, please dial (844) 611-4016.

## How Water Main Breaks Affect You



Water mains supply clean water to sections of our service area. If there is a break in the line, the flow of water can be interrupted depending on how severe the break. Customers can experience low pressure or no water until the break is repaired. Our construction department works as quickly as possible to isolate and repair the leak to restore water to that section of our service.

### KEEP INFORMED WITH REVERSE 9-1-1

For members of the community directly affected by water main breaks, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit [MPWC.com/swift911](http://MPWC.com/swift911) to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!

## MPWC Water Service Line Inventory Continues

The MPWC sincerely appreciates our customers' response to our request for assistance in identifying customer owned portions of the water lines in our service area.

**YOU CAN HELP** by informing us of the type of water line coming into your property. If you know what kind of pipes you have (copper, plastic, galvanized steel, lead, etc.), you can call our office and report the information to one of our Customer Support Reps. You can also visit our website at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com) for valuable information and pictures to assist you with identifying your water service line and service line type.

If you are unsure, you may schedule an appointment with a Service Technician, or you can snap a photo of the pipe coming into the property that connects to your water meter.

Send your photos along with your property address to: [info@mpwc.com](mailto:info@mpwc.com) or call us at: (856) 663-0043.

We thank you for your continued cooperation as we work toward planning for the next phase of the project. The MPWC will release information as it becomes available. Stay up to date by following us on Facebook and checking in at our website for the latest news and information.

## PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

*The Merchantville-Pennsauken  
Water Commission  
Now Accepts Online Payments!*

Log onto our website at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com) and select the "Pay Your Bill" button right from our homepage.

### Q: How often does the MPWC bill?



**A: The MPWC bills every three months. However, we bill 7 cycles for each quarter & they don't run concurrent with taxes or with the sewer bills.**

## Account Number and Pin Number

### On Your Bill

PIN: XXXX
ACCOUNT
5000300-0
PREVIOUS READING

### On Your Shut Off Notice

Location: 6751 Westfield Avenue	PIN: XXXX
Account Id: 5000300-0	

On your bill or turn off notice are your account number and your pin number. These values will help you access your account online ([www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com)) and through the automated phone payment system when you call into (856) 663-0043 and choose option 8.

Meetings of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission are held in person on the second Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

The location is the G. Burton German meeting room at the MPWC's Administrative Headquarters, 6751 Westfield Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08110. The public is invited to attend. For more information, visit our website, [MPWC.com](http://MPWC.com)

### WATER EMERGENCY?

Call 856-663-0044 anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## MERCHANTVILLE – PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION

6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110, 856-663-0043 [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com)

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President ■ Mr. Shakir Ali, Vice President  
Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer ■ Mr. Edward Brennan, Secretary  
Mr. Frank Warwick, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer



## Pennsauken Events Work To Stop Spread Of COVID-19 continued from page 1

and get even more people to turn out.”

On Feb. 26, Pennsauken Township, working in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health, hosted a mobile COVID-19 vaccination and booster shot event at the Pennsauken Municipal Court. Individuals who had already received their first and second vaccine dose were able to get their booster

shots; and those not fully vaccinated could receive their first or second dose at this event, all without an appointment. Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccine brands were available; and no ID or proof of insurance was required. At day's end, almost 60 individuals were able to become better protected against the coronavirus.

“The goal of this event was to reach out to the underserved of our community and hold a vaccination event close to home,” explained Mayor Rafeh. “Even though we have moved passed the height of the omicron surge, the more

people who are better protected against COVID-19, the closer we are to getting things back to normal. A special thank you to Cynthia Samuels-Bundy and the residents of Morrisville for their help in getting the word out.”

For details on upcoming COVID-19 testing and vaccination events, be sure to visit the Township's website, [twp.pennsauken.nj.us](http://twp.pennsauken.nj.us), and follow the municipal government on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @PennsaukenTwp.

## Pennsauken's Annual Easter Egg Hunt Held On April 9



Pennsauken Township's annual Easter Egg Hunt returns on Saturday, April 9 at the Walt Niegorski Sports Complex.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

After a one-year hiatus, Pennsauken families can once again grab their baskets for the Township's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Sponsored by the Pennsauken Youth Action Committee, this year's egg hunt will take place on Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m., at the Walt Niegorski Sports Complex, located at Powell and Collins avenues. The Easter Egg Hunt is open to children up to age 9.

“This is a great annual event that Pennsauken families look forward to every year,” said Juan Vazquez, head of the Township's Parks and Recreation Department. “We strongly encourage families to arrive early to make sure they get their picture taken with everyone's favorite, long-eared celebrity.”

There will be three separate egg hunts broken down by age groups. Each hunt will feature special eggs. A child that collects one of these eggs will win a special prize. In addition, family members should bring their cameras or cell phones to take free pictures with the Easter Bunny, who will be in attendance throughout the event.

Children should be at the sports complex no later than 9:45 a.m. The egg hunts start promptly at 10:00 a.m. and end fairly quickly. The event is usually over within a half hour. In addition, participants should bring a bag, basket, or other container to store their eggs.

The rain date for the event is Saturday, April 16. For more information, call (856) 665-1000 x151 or e-mail [jvazquez@twp.pennsauken.nj.us](mailto:jvazquez@twp.pennsauken.nj.us).

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## Pennsauken Hosts County's First In-Person Town Hall In Two Years continued from page 1

to Tippin's Pond, the total renovation of the Pennsauken Skate Park, Committee's investments in public safety, and more.

"Pennsauken is growing, and there are a lot of exciting things on the horizon," said Mayor Rafah.

Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez spoke about

a variety of different efforts that have been undertaken at the state level, including supporting small businesses during various stages of the pandemic, passing legislation to stop utility shutoffs during the winter, and making New Jersey the national leader in lead paint poisoning

prevention, among other initiatives.

Commissioner Director Louis Capelli, Jr. provided some updates on several county-sponsored projects happening in Pennsauken. From improvements at Cooper River Park, to extensive work on several county roads, significant invest-

ments are being made in the Township.

Congressman Norcross, a Township native, admitted that while he loves the 52 towns in New Jersey that he represents, Pennsauken has a special place in his heart.

"It's good to be home. Just so many good memories," said Norcross. "Pennsauken is a great place to grow up, learn, and move on in the world."

Norcross took significant time to discuss the impact of COVID-19, and how elected officials have worked non-stop to support their constituents during this difficult time.

"It's all levels of government working together over the last two years. Together, we're coming through that, and I see a positive end coming."

The Congressman spoke about the American Rescue Plan, the economic stimulus bill that was designed to speed up the country's recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession, and how this legislation helped both the Township's municipal government and Pennsauken Public Schools.

After the remarks, elected officials answered a variety of questions from those in attendance. Several Pennsauken residents shared their concerns with the mayor, who did her best to answer, and promised to follow up with the Township departments directly to help address any issues.

To view a video recap of the town hall in Pennsauken, visit [facebook.com/camden-countynj/videos](https://facebook.com/camden-countynj/videos).

## Township Seeks Municipal Pool Manager For 2022 Season

The Township of Pennsauken has announced an employment opportunity for a seasonal municipal pool manager. This position will include managing lifeguards, maintaining pool facilities, professional interactions with members, and other related responsibilities as needed. Qualifications include lifeguard, CPR, and first aid certification. The ideal candidates must enjoy working with the public and possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Interested applicants can download the employment application from the

Township of Pennsauken website or may pick up a copy from the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building. Applications shall include a copy of a resume, and valid NJ Driver's License. All applications are due in a sealed envelope and delivered to the attention of Human Resources, Township of Pennsauken, 5605 North Crescent Boulevard, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 no later than Monday, April 4, 2022.

For additional details, or to download an application, visit <https://twp.pennsauken.nj.us/jobs-bids>.

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## Pennsauken Remembers Officer Delp, Sonny DiSabato

*continued from page 1*

Chief. Michael also served as an EMT with the Pennsauken First Aid Squad for three years and was the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Pennsauken Township.

"Mike Delp was a great man on many levels. He was a true leader in our community," said Township Committeeman and Director of Public Safety Marco DiBattista. "He touched a lot of lives and he's the kind of guy that represents this town."

On Feb. 20, Pennsauken's first responders, local officials, and a caring community came out in force to pay their respects to Officer Delp and his family. There was much pomp and circumstance, which added to the solemnity of the occasion, including a giant American flag hanging on a ladder truck, a police procession and honor guard, a bagpiper, and a final farewell, with first responders saluting the casket two at a time. It was apparent to all just how much Officer Delp was appreciated, respected, and loved.

Chief Olivo and the entire Pennsauken



**Pennsauken Senior Coordinator Sonny DiSabato, seen here accepting an award from Camden County Commissioner Director Louis Cappelli Jr., passed away on Feb. 22 at the age of 89.**

Township Police Department thank the numerous police departments who sent mutual aid to town after the untimely death of Officer Michael Delp and during his funeral service, as well as the many other agencies who sent assistance and well wishes during this difficult time.

### Anthony "Sonny" DiSabato

Pennsauken's Senior Coordinator,

Sonny DiSabato, passed away on Feb. 22 at the age of 89.

"Sonny's larger-than-life personality and giving nature are already missed. Our Township won't be the same without him," said Mayor Rafeh. "We offer our sincerest condolences to Sonny's family and friends."

For 21 years, Sonny was the liaison between the Township and various senior groups in Penn-

sauken and provided helpful information to our residents. It was not uncommon for him to visit senior homes to help people who were physically unable to come to the municipal building. He also penned the monthly "Senior Corner" for All Around Pennsauken.

Throughout his life, DiSabato was involved in many organizations and selflessly gave of his time and energy for

many causes. Over the years he worked with UNICO, the Variety Club, and Arc Rainbow, and was a member of the Sons of Italy Lodge 2567 in Cherry Hill, among other groups.

"Sonny's contributions to Pennsauken, Camden County and beyond will never be forgotten and his legacy will live on through those he impacted," Commissioner Director Louis Cappelli Jr. wrote in a statement on behalf of the Camden County Board of Commissioners "His passion and love for giving back to his community, especially the elderly

residents in his community, was immeasurable and was driving force behind his long career in public service. He has left large shoes to fill."

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in DiSabato's name may be made to St. Paul Roman Catholic Church, 923 Christian Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

And in Sonny's memory, the staff of All Around Pennsauken asks our readers to say a prayer for our brave men and women serving in the Armed Forces, particularly those who are overseas and in harm's way.

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## Honoring Lions Club Member Sharon Rush

After 20 years of service to the Pennsauken Lions Club, Lion Sharon Rush and her husband, Jon, have decided to sell their business and eventually move out of the area. As a token of our appreciation, a "thank you" plaque was presented to her by the Club on Feb. 7. Our special thanks go to Sharon for her many years of service to the Pennsauken Lions Club, the Pennsauken and Merchantville communities, and to those who joined us and have supported the Pennsauken Lions Club during our meetings at Macaro's Deli & Catering.

The Lions Club will be identifying a new location to hold our monthly in-person meetings beginning in April. Once the new location is identified, we will let the community know. We will continue to serve our community, just as we have



The Pennsauken Lions Club recognized member Sharon Rush for her commitment to serving the local community.

done for 80 years; we thank you and look forward to your continued support.

We welcome you to become a Lions Club member and work with us to shape the lives of the people of the Pennsauken community. If you would like more information about the Lions Club, to become a member, donate to our vision screening efforts, or consider joining us for one of our meetings or virtual meetings, just reach out to us. Please follow us on Facebook @PennsaukenLions or email PennsaukenLionsClub1@gmail.com.

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## Welsh Heritage Day At Griffith Morgan House On April 3

On Sunday, April 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Pennsauken Historical Society celebrates the cultural heritage of the Morgan family with our annual Welsh Heritage Day at our beautiful historic Griffith Morgan House. See a demonstration of Welsh dishes prepared at our colonial hearth by Ruth Konrad. Additionally, we will be serving light refreshments that also will include customary Welsh treats such as cakes and cheeses.

While enjoying a delectable bite to eat, relish in the sounds of the musical and re-enactor crew of the Sea Dogs with the

lore of several famous Welsh pirates; Howell Davis and Bartholomew Roberts (Black Bart) among others. They will be singing traditional songs of Wales as well as of the sea.

There is no cost for admission or parking. Our beautifully historic Griffith Morgan House is at 243 Griffith Morgan Lane in Pennsauken.

More details to come, so please follow the Pennsauken Historical Society on social media including Facebook. For questions, call (856) 486-9561 or email PennsaukenHistoricalSociety@gmail.com.

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## FOODADVENTURES

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

In February, and one day shy of National Pizza Day, I visited the newly opened Nona's Pizzeria located in Meadowbrook Plaza on Union Ave. I was thrilled that another food place popped up after the previous business

## Meals Just Like Nona Used To Make

there closed. My mom has mentioned this place a few times and I finally made my way there.

I decided to order a few things for pickup and the person on the other end was quick and courteous. I was feeding two small children, myself, and my mom.

I ordered mozzarella sticks, garlic knots, a meatball parmesan sandwich, and a grilled chicken Caesar salad. The order was ready in about 20-25 minutes, which was perfect for me to get out of work, make a quick stop somewhere and then grab the food. Parking is plentiful in the

shopping center and Nona's is right on the end, which makes their location even easier to find.

Inside, you'll see the faux brick façade, large ovens, and a display area filled with different types of pizzas. It echoes of any familiar, family-friendly local pizza shop. It's also well lit, clean, and welcoming. My order was ready to go when I got there and the man that helped me cash out was courteous. One of the other employees/chefs showed me all of their specials for the upcoming Super Bowl weekend. All in all, everyone was so helpful and smiling.

My nephews were thrilled to find that I had gotten them mozzarella sticks. They made short work of them, but not before I managed to snag a bite of one. They are cheesy and crispy; exactly what you want in a mozzarella stick. The side of sauce is a nice, slightly tangy marinara. I'll admit that we used this sauce for the mozzarella sticks, garlic knots AND the meatball sandwich. The meatball parm was really nice. The bread was soft, and the meatballs were homemade, which really touched on the "food from a nona" feel. Also, where some meatball sandwiches fall flat in the cheese department, there was no issue here. The cheese covered the whole top of the sandwich. This was a very decent meatball parm and one I'd suggest you order when you give Nona's Pizzeria a try.

My final dish was the grilled chicken Caesar salad, which was not only big, but also blanketed in perfectly grilled and sliced chicken. This salad could feed multiple people. You also get a bunch of fresh sliced bread on the side with your salad.



Tasty Italian meals can be found at the newly opened Nona's Pizzeria on Union Ave.

I'm the kind of person who agrees that you can never have too much bread, especially when there is fresh EVOO around; that's something I always have in my kitchen, so I splashed some of that on the bread and enjoyed.

Nona's Pizzeria is located at 3018 Union Ave. They're open for dine-in, takeout, and delivery Monday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. The restaurant has a lively Instagram presence and is constantly putting up specials. It's worth following them @nonas.pizzeria. They are also on Facebook @NonasPizzeria3018. Their menu is available online and in store. They deliver, they cater, and are on the pizza finder app Slice. Give them a call at (856) 746-4862 or go eat in. Tell them Rachael the Food Adventurer sent you!

I would love to hear about your experience at Nona's or any other place in town you have eaten. Follow me on Instagram @aapfoodadventure or on Facebook on my page "AAP Food Adventures." Mangia! And enjoy your Food Adventures.



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## FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Yoga, Art Show And More From The Friends

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

For those who can't get by without their in-person or Zoom Chair Yoga sessions, take heart! You'll have three more to look forward to this month: Friday March 4, 11, and 18, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Remember, there's a 20-person limit for the Community Room, and if you haven't already registered, you still can do so either at the Circulation Desk or by calling the library at (856) 665-9595, ext. 3. The other option of course is to use Zoom; so if you're doing the workout from the comfort of your home, click on this link to connect: <https://tinyurl.com/FOLYOGA>.

Our other regular monthly event, Munch and a Movie, meets again on Tuesday, March 15, from 1:00 p.m. 'til the movie is over. Say it with me now: bring your lunch and the Friends will supply snacks and a beverage, not to mention a first-rate movie to watch while you're eating. Masks will still be required while you're not eating, and of course we'll maintain safe distances. You can check out what's playing by calling the library's Circulation Desk before the 15th. Otherwise, just come prepared to enjoy the show.

Speaking of shows, let's hope you've narrowed down what you'll be submitting for our Art Show and Sale coming up April 25 – 30. It's our first show in two

years, and we want to make it special. Brochures are available at the front desk in the library explaining everything you need to know about the show and how and what to enter. Our "Meet the Artists" get-together on Saturday, April 30 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. is an opportunity for the public to chat with your favorite artist and make a purchase if you so choose.

As a supportive lead-up to our Art Show week, we've scheduled a watercolor workshop on Saturday, March 12, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., to give participants a chance to show their creative side. The maximum number of attendees is 20, and all participants get to use a set of paints we'll furnish. The instructor, Fran

Bennett, plans to cover basic techniques, then help participants finish a unique spring landscape to take home with them. Who knows? Maybe some of our participants will enter their paintings in the show! As usual, it's advisable to call the library's Circulation Desk to sign up to make sure you have a slot. We're still busy putting together another pre-show workshop for April 9, but more about that next month once it's finalized.

Next up, our annual Poetry Contest. By the time you're reading this, flyers and application forms will be available at the library's Circulation Desk. The contest is open to all Pennsauken and Merchantville residents from kinder-

garten to adults, and applicants cannot have won in the previous two years. All entries must be original and not previously published for print or electronic publication. Entries are due by 6:00 p.m., Friday, April 29, either through the mail or electronically. You can get all the how-to details in the flyer. This year we hope to return to an in-person awards ceremony on May 18, but as with all things these past few years, we'll have to wait till closer to the date to see if that will be possible. Fingers crossed!

In the meantime, you have a lot to do, movies to watch, lunches to pack, artwork to be created, and poetry to be written. Have fun and remain safe.



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## Friends Of The Library Art Show Returns In April

Calling all local area artists! After a two-year interruption, the Friends of the Pennsauken Library are planning to host their annual Art Show and Sale this coming spring. Local artists are encouraged to display their original works in various media during the event, which runs from Monday, April 25, to Saturday, April 30 and held in the magazine section of the Pennsauken Free Public Library. Participants must be Pennsauken or Merchantville residents from eighth grade through adult. Notices have been sent to all public and private schools in Pennsauken. Details for participation

are noted in a flyer now available at the library circulation desk.

Attendees at the spring fundraiser will be able to vote for their favorite art piece in the "People's Choice Award." All interested artists are asked to send an email with a photo of your work to Eleanor Gribok, co-chair, at [egribok@comcast.net](mailto:egribok@comcast.net). Please include your telephone number in your message.

Additionally, there will be a second opportunity to display your original art pieces (paintings, watercolor, photographs, etc.) as part of a Silent Art Auction and Wine Tasting event hosted by

Inglesby & Sons Funeral Home, 2426 Cove Rd., held on Sunday, June 5. For this event, artwork must be framed and ready to hang.

All participating artists must agree to donate 20 percent of the sale price of any piece they sell at either event to the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library. These Funds will be used to support our new STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math.) initiative to provide funds to the Pennsauken Free Public Library towards their collection of new opportunities for learning.

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## GRAYMATTERS Celebrating The Joy Of The Irish Spirit

By Judith Kristen,  
AAP Columnist

For a girl who has a strong northern European ancestry, somehow my heart has always been surrounded by people of Irish descent. The Mehaffey's, Carrolls, Malloys, McGees, Callaghans, O'Briens, McGonagles... you get the drift.

And, if other dear friends weren't carrying a last name that indicated they were Irish, it was still in there somewhere and they were Irish in spirit. They had the gift of gab, were witty and charming, and so

very, very social and welcoming, and at times, a bit stubborn. Yes, I said stubborn.

Now I'm not saying that all of those traits are done in the name of Ireland. I just guess that since their culture has been brought to many a port all across the globe, that those other parts of the world kept what they loved about their friends with Irish heritage and made sure it was kept forever alive and well. So, that means we're all a part of each other as any good DNA test will tell you.

I recall all of my trips to Ireland with a smile on my face. And, even if I was en

route elsewhere, I made sure to fly Aer Lingus, so I could get a decent layover in Dublin, to enjoy a meal and have a fun chat or two at the airport, where, I might add, some very good Irish food is served, along with that fabulous Kerrygold Butter and those delicious shortbread cookies. And if you've never had a real Irish stew, you don't have to fly to Killarney to have some, there are so many authentic recipes online, so you'll feel like you're there just the same.

Now don't you just feel like wrapping yourself up in a warm, soft, Kelly green

sweater, after a lovely Irish meal, with "Danny Boy" playing on the radio? And maybe a nightcap of some 21-year-old Redbreast whiskey, considered to be, "the definitive expression of Irish Spirit" right there by your side? I think that sounds quite good to a lot of us.

As for me, I will forever be grateful to all those beautiful Irish souls I have known throughout my life, even if their

last names weren't Mehaffey or O'Malley, but also the ones whose last names were: Smith, Goldberg, or Stagliano.

Truly, in the lilt of Irish laughter, you can hear the angels sing, and in so many different and beautiful voices. Just listen.

Happy March and Happy St. Paddy's Day!

Your friend,  
~Judy McKristen.

## Applications Now Accepted For Lend A Hand Program

Pennsauken is accepting applications for the Community Development Block Grant federally funded Lend A Hand Grant program.

The purpose of Lend A Hand is to provide financial assistance to income eligible homeowners in Pennsauken Township. The assistance is designed to upgrade the existing housing stock by correcting serious housing code violations that are found to be dangerous or

injurious to the occupant(s).

Please contact the Pennsauken program coordinator via email at [emartz@twp.pennsauken.nj.us](mailto:emartz@twp.pennsauken.nj.us) or call

(856) 665-1000 x104 to discuss eligibility requirements. If accepted into the program, your application will be placed on the waiting list.

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## In-Person Events

- Access Navigator (Adults) – Tuesdays, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, & 3/22; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The library's Access Navigator is available to provide one-on-one help with computer skills, resume building, job searching, and more. Call the library to schedule an appointment.
- Take & Make Tuesdays (Children & Families) – Tuesdays, 3/8 & 3/22; regular library hours. Stop by our Youth Services Department for free crafts that you can take with you and make at home! Crafts will be updated on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and are available while supplies last during the library's regular open hours.
- Watercolor Workshop (Teens & Adults) – Saturday 3/12; 1:00 p.m. Join retired

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www.pennsaukenlibrary.org

Monday – Thursday:  
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday:  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

## March Library Events

PHS art teacher Fran Bennett for a fun and creative afternoon. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library. Registration required. To register, please call the library.

- FOL Movies & Munch (Adults) – Tuesday, 3/15; 1:00 p.m. The Friends of the Pennsauken Library's monthly afternoon film series is back! Join us in the Community Room for a screening of February's movie. Registration required. To register, please call the library.
- New Jersey Makers Day (All Ages) – Saturday, 3/26; 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Join us in the library for a variety of hands-on projects that showcase and highlight STEM and maker culture, enhancing life-long learning, creativity and more!

## Virtual Events

- Oscar Ballot Prediction Contest (All Ages) – Now through 3/24. The library will be celebrating the 94th Academy Awards by hosting an Oscar Ballot Prediction Contest. Select the winners and submit your ballot prior to the Oscars and find out how your picks stack up to the Academy's! Ballots can be submitted online, or paper copies will be available at the library. A prize will be awarded to the person with the most accurate predictions.
- Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5) – Tuesdays, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, & 3/29; 11:00 a.m. Join Ms. Susan and Ms. Sabrina for storytime fun! Storytime combines reading with music, dancing, multilin-

gual skills, finger-plays, and rhymes. Registration required at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplst22>.

- FOL Chair Yoga (Adults) – Fridays, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18; 10:30 a.m. The Friends of the Pennsauken Library invite you to join us for Chair Yoga. These hybrid classes will be held virtually via Zoom, with unlimited capacity, and in-person with limited attendance. Registration required. Register online for virtual attendance: <https://tinyurl.com/FOLYOGA>.
- Animal Crossing Open Play (All Ages) – Mondays, 3/7 & 3/21. The Isle of PL welcomes players of all ages! To visit add PFPL's Nintendo Friend Code, SW-3902-1262-4235, visit your ACNH airport, and select "online play" to find

us. Nintendo Online subscription required for online play.

- Pajama Storytime (All Ages) – Thursday, 3/10; 6:00 p.m. Cozy up in your pajamas and grab your favorite stuffed animal; join PFPL's Youth Services for a special night-time storytime! Registration required. <https://tinyurl.com/pfplPJS22>.
- Mindfulness Practice For Kids (All Ages) – Wednesday, 3/16; 6:00 p.m. Join mindfulness coach Courtney Schulnick on Zoom for an introduction to the many benefits of mindfulness followed by a guided practice. Registration required. Please call the library or register online: <https://tinyurl.com/pfplmindfulness>.

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## inSports Pennsauken Races To Indoor State Relay Title

By Billy Snyder, Athletic Director,  
Pennsauken Public Schools

Eleven different boys ran and scored for Coach Tabb as they won a state championship at the Group 3 State Relay Meet in Toms River. The boys took first place in three different races and took a fifth in another race for a total of 32 team points. Those 32 points were enough to edge track rival Timber Creek, who had 30 points.

Led by junior track star Bryce Tucker, the Pennsauken boys track team has posted some of the fastest times run in all of New Jersey: #1 time run for the 4x200m relay; #4 time run for the sprint medley;

and #4 time run for the 4x400m relay.

This team is young, fast, and poised for more. They are the defending Outdoor Group 3 champions and the way they are running right now, they are putting the entire state of New Jersey on notice. Pennsauken is becoming track town!

"This is the fastest, deepest, most all around team I think I have ever had here at Pennsauken. We can score at the state level from the 55m dash all the way through to the mile," said Coach Clinton Tabb. "Bryce is certainly our star and go to guy, but I have a full team and that is what I am most excited about going forward."



Pennsauken High School's boys track team won the state championship at the Group 3 State Relay Track Meet.

## Making Their Mark On The Wrestling Mat



Seniors Liam O'Neil and Youseef Rafeh are moving on to regional competition after placing during district-level matches; and sophomore Meckenzie Hunter placed fourth in the state at the NJSIAA State Championships.

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## Unified Bowling Takes Third Place In Championships

Pennsauken High School's unified bowling team placed third in the state at their championships in North Brunswick.



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